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A

SERMON

PREACH'D

On the Eighth of *March*, 1704-5.

Being the Anniversary Day of

Thanksgiving for the QUEEN's
Accession to the Crown.

By BENJAMIN HOADLY, M. A. Rector
of *St. Peter's Poor*.

*Published at the Request of several Gentlemen of that
Parish.*

L O N D O N :

Printed by *H. Clark*, for *Timothy Childe*, at the *White-
Hart*, at the West End of *St. Pauls*, 1705.

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Printed by W. Clark, for T. Worsley, Stationer, at the West-End of St. Paul's Church, 1705.

P R E F A C E.

I Know the Subject, and Design of the following Sermon to be so good, that I need not be ashamed of them. And could I have persuaded my self to think the Composition of it so well ordered as that it could do any Honour to the Merits of our present Q U E E N, or any Justice to the Memory of our late K I N G, I had my self freely published by Inclination, what I now yield up to the repeated Entreaties of some Gentlemen, who were pleased to think better of it than I can do my self.

If any should think me too Officious in paying Honour, on this Day, to our late K I N G, I can assure them, it was in order to pay a greater Honour to our present Q U E E N, than I could have done either by Affronting, or Neglecting His Memory: And it is such an Honour as his greatest Enemies need not now Envy Him. If any should think that I have spoken too much of our Civil Constitution, and interposed in a Province that doth not belong to the Pulpit; I must say, that I think it the Duty of every Man to be sensible of the National Blessings He every Day Enjoys; and not unbecoming a Minister of the Gospel, to Love his Country, and to endeavour to understand,
and

P R E F A C E.

and promote the true Interest of it: Besides that the chief Design of such Days seems unavoidably to lead us to it. They who think I have spoken Truth, will acknowledge that there is need enough of it at a time when there are Constant, and Publick Endeavours to reduce us to Principles of Slavery, and to Explode that Scheme of Notions, upon which all our hopes of Civil Happiness are founded. And they who have different Nations from what they meet with here, may comfort themselves that there is daily Published more than enough to Counter-balance all the Mischiefs this poor Essay can do.

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I confess I could wish that this Sermon might help to balance the Performances of another Kind, and another Spirit: And if it should chance to have any good Effect that way, it will be a very agreeable Surprize to me. But if it meet with the severest Censures, and the most unjust Treatment possible; yet I shall have a great Satisfaction in what I have done, if those Gentlemen, to whom the World owes this Trouble, will please to take it for some Return to the many Obligations I have already received from them, that I have chosen rather to Expose my self, than to deny them a Request contrary to my own Judgment, and Inclination.

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A
S E R M O N

Preach'd in the Parish Church of

St. P E T E R P O O R,

M A R C H the 8th, 1704-5.

The Anniversary of Thanksgiving for
the Queen's Accession to the Throne.

Psalm. 95. 2.

*Let us come before his Presence with Thanksgiv-
ing.*

WE are this Day called upon by
Authority, to Celebrate before
God the Accession of our Gra-
cious **Q U E E N** to the Throne of these
Kingdoms: A **Q U E E N**, whose admi-
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rable Prudence, and Conduct ; whose tender Care of all her Subjects , and hearty Concern for their common Interest, have made Her the Delight of her People, and given us abundant Reason *to come before the Presence of G O D with Thanksgiving.* And that we may pursue the true Design of this Day's Solemnity, without the mixture of the least Indecency, or of any Thing that may be displeasing to Almighty G O D, I design to offer some Considerations, which seem to me proper, and expedient for the end of our present *Assembly* : That we may neither shew our selves unthankful for the Blessings we truly enjoy under the Happy Government of such a *Princess*, nor express our Thankfulness for them after an Improper, or unbecoming Manner. It would be base and unworthy in us, not to endeavour to make our Selves sensible of our own Happiness, in order to our offering the Thanks that are due to Almighty G O D, and to our paying the Acknowledgments, and Returns we owe to that Wisdom which now presides, and governs in this Nation : And on the other Hand, it would be much more unworthy of Men, and of Christians, to
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express our *Resentments* of the Blessings of this Day, after such a manner as is not agreeable to a true Sense of them, or doth not suit with the Solemnity of our Appearance before God. It being my Design, therefore, to guard against both these Evils, I beg leave to mention to you as well the improper, as proper ways of Celebrating this Day ; that so we may take care to avoid the *One*, and chuse only the *Other*. And,

I. I shall but just put you in Mind, in general, that all manner of Vice, and Folly is utterly inconsistent with such Solemnities ; and that the smallest degrees of Intemperance, Extravagance, and Debauchery, little become such a Day as this. It is an unpardonable Contradiction, to express our Gratitude to Almighty G O D by forgetting his Laws, and violating his Commandments ; and an unaccountable Method of *Thanksgiving*, to Affront, and Disobey our great *Benefactor* : And yet it is but too observable, especially on such *Festivals* as relate to the *Civil Estate* of the Kingdom, that many think they cannot appear Joyful enough without casting off all regard to Sobriety, and letting

loose the Reins to Intemperance. But all such Joy as disdains the Bounds of Religion, and Virtue, degenerates into Madness: And whilst it seems to express a Sense of God's Favours, and a Love to our Country, it is, in Truth, the greatest Demonstration of our Insensibility of the one, and our Enmity to the other; putting a stop to the gracious Design of future Mercies, and helping only to Treasure up Wrath against the Day of Wrath. There being, therefore, nothing so Incongruous and Absurd, as to express a Thankfulness to GOD by wicked Actions; and a Love to our Country, by contributing to the Debauchery, and Ruine of it; let all such Behaviour as is contrary to the Rules of Reason, and the Laws of the Gospel, be far banished from all who truly Rejoyce before GOD. But,

II. With a more peculiar Relation to this Day, I cannot but observe, (and I hope without Offence to any) that it seems disagreeable to a true Sense of the Mercy of this Day, to Celebrate the Accession of her present *Majesty* to the Crown, with Reflexions, and Satyr upon the Memory of her *Royal*
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Predecessor. It is the only Thing that casts a Shadow over the Brightness of this Day, that we could not Enjoy an Excellent *Princess*, without being deprived of an Excellent *Prince*; that the same Day, which began the Happy Reign of our great, and good QUEEN, put a Period to the useful, and invaluable Life of a great, and good KING; that the same Hour which demanded Acclamations of Joy for the one, demanded Tears of Piety, and Gratitude, for the other. Never was there a greater, and more dubious Contest known between *Grief* and *Joy*, than on this Day: For never was there a Reign ended of more beneficial Influence upon these Nations, than that which this Day ended; and never was there a Reign begun from which we could promise our Selves a greater Progress towards Happiness, than we have already experienced from that which this Day began. If therefore, it were on any Account allowable to contaminate a Day of Joy with any Marks of Grief, surely it might be allowed to shed a Tear upon the Memory of a *Prince*, to whom, under God, we owe the Enjoyment of all we Possess. And surely, such a Tribute to his
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Name might be thought even an Honour paid to this Day, on which We should not now be Celebrating the Accession of an Excellent Q U E E N to the Throne, had not He first sustained the Shock of our *Enemies*, and settled us upon that Foundation, which we now think of with so much Pleasure, and Security. Especially, since the carrying our Thoughts backward can only serve to raise our *Thankfulness* to Almighty G O D, that, after He had deprived us of a Life, on which the Fate of *Europe* seemed, in humane appearance, to depend, He was pleased to Seat upon the same *Throne* a *Princess* so wise; so skilled in all the Rules of good Government; and so regardful of the true Interest of her People, that her Reign hath hitherto seemed only a glorious Continuance of the former.

So that, methinks, nothing can be more Incongruous on this Day, than to persecute the Memory; or to rake into any supposed Mistakes, and Mis-managements; or to fix any Blot upon the Reputation of Him, by whom only it is, that this Day bears those Characters of Joy it hath now put on. And
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methinks, if nothing else ; if neither Honour, nor Gratitude to our late K I N G ; yet Respect, and Veneration for our present Q U E E N, if it be real, should secure His Name from Reproaches, who laid the Foundation of Her Reign, and Her Glories. Her Throne is settled upon the same Foundation on which His was fixed : And can it be a proper Method of exalting *Hers* with Honour, to throw down *His* with Indignity ? Upon Her Accession to the Crown, She Her self styled Him, in an august Assembly, *the great Support not only of these Kingdoms, but of all Europe* : And can it become *Her* Day to contradict that glorious Character ? Or can it be accounted an Honour to *Her*, to deny the Truth of her own solemn Words ? And ever since she ascended the Throne, it hath been her Glory to pursue the Cause of her great *Predecessor* ; to insist in the Paths which He had trodden before her ; and to oppose the same common Adversary with the same Zeal, and Concern. How injurious, therefore, must it prove to the Glories of the *One*, to depress, and lessen the Glories of the *Other* ? I would not willingly give leave to too severe a Censure :
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But there is too much Reason to fear that the same Persons, who can Solemnize this Day with *Invectives* against the late KING, may come in time to Solemnize it with the like *Invectives* against the present QUEEN; if she continue unmoveably to pursue the same hated Maxims of Government, and to speak too often, and too earnestly, of *Peace*, and *Moderation*.

But if such Persons think that the Glory of so great, and good a QUEEN cannot be raised to a sufficient height, without depressing the Glory of her *Predecessor*, this is, of all others, the greatest Indignity they could offer to Her self, and to Her Day. For it is one principal Reason for our present *Thankfulness*, that our Excellent *Princess* abounds in so many Graces, and so many noble Accomplishments; is adorned with so great a degree of Conduct, and Wisdom; and appears so admirably fitted for Government, that she will ever shine Illustriously by her own Light; that her native Excellencies will add a perpetual Grace to her Name; and that she stands not in need of any such poor, and inglorious Artifices, to
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endear Her to her People, or to make Her Story full of Honour in future Ages. She possesseth what is sufficient to recommend her to the Affections of all her good Subjects ; and owes her Glories to her self, and not to the Defects, and Faults of others.

But it is no great Wonder that so great an Abuse can be put upon this Day, since we find that some have their Understandings so strangely turned, that they cannot imagine a Veneration for Her present *Majesty* consistent with a Respect to the Memory of her *Predecessor*. I speak this with Relation to such amongst us, as are not content with professing themselves hearty Friends, and Well-wishers to that Q U E E N who began Her Reign on this Day ; but are often Insinuating, after some manner or other, that Her secret Enemies are many, and especially amongst those, who profess the highest Respect to the Memory of Her *Predecessor*. Which seems to me so hard a Censure, and so little deserved, that I care not to speak as severely of it, as I justly might : But I must say, that I think it manifest, on the contrary, that those who were truly *Friends* to the

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late Government, cannot be truly *Enemies* to this; and that those, who were hearty Lovers of the late KING, can never, without renouncing, or contradicting their Principles, hate, or revile a QUEEN, who succeeds Him in the same Throne, and the same Designs; who hath the same regard to the Rights and Liberties of her Subjects, and the same Zeal against the great Adversary of both. We know, many who help to spread this Evil Report of their *Brethren* are Publick, and professed *Enemies* to the present happy *Establishment*. It is wonderful that they should think themselves of all others the fittest Persons to give Information of *Friends*, and *Enemies* to a Government they cannot themselves wish well to. But it is much more wonderful, that any who study the Preservation of the *Government*, and the Interest of the present *Governor*, can join in a Censure which might have no good Effect, if it should raise Jealousies against those who have not deserved them, and kindle Animosities, and Heats in the Land. But I have suffered my self to be carried beyond the Bounds I at first thought of, in Opposition to what seems contrary to De-

Decency, and Gratitude, and disagreeable to the Occasion of this Day: And I shall only add, that all that I have now said hath proceeded, not only from a great Regard to the Memory of our late K I N G, which I am not ashamed to Profess; but from a profound Veneration for our present Q U E E N, whose Honour appears to me deeply concerned in it.

III. Having taken Notice of the Abuses of this Day, I come now to observe that it is one very proper part of our present Duty to make our selves sensible of the Mercy of God to us in the Accession of our Excellent Q U E E N to the Crown; lest we should seem to draw near to him with our Lips, but to have our Hearts far from Him, whilst we pretend to Commemorate so great a Blessing before Him.

We need not doubt, but that if our great, and common Adversary had been put to wish what, of all Things, He could have thought most conducive to the compassing the Ends of his boundless Ambition, He would have wished a Period to the Life of our late

K I N G, who had so long stood resolute against his constant Attempts upon the *Rights* and *Liberties* of *Europe*, and made it his whole Employment to prevent the Success of his *Mischief* as fast as He himself could contrive it. And we need not doubt but that, upon the Death of such a *Prince*, (so able, and so resolved to oppose Him) He flattered Himself with a train of uninterrupted Successes; and was secure in the Thoughts of an *Universal Monarchy*; and imagined all Things bowing their Necks to his Authority; and no Resistance but what He could despise, and easily break through. But Almighty G O D, who Sees not as Man Sees, nor Judges as Man Judges, quickly taught Him to think otherwise. By his good Providence our Q U E E N was peaceably seated upon the Throne; inspired with the same Zeal against the common Enemy that filled every Hour of the Life of Her *Predecessor*; and quickly began to shew such Signs of Prudence, and Wisdom, and Conduct, as could not but convince Him how vain, and groundless his *Confidences* were. Abroad, Affairs have been managed with that singular, and wonderful Dexterity, which hath drawn after it
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such an Instance of Success as hath been seldom known in History. At Home, lest the unhappy Temper of this Nation should give too much Advantage to the *Enemy*, Universal Love, and Peace, and Mutual Benevolence, have been recommended, and cultivated. Great, and signal Acts of Piety, and Charity have been performed, to invite down the Blessing of Heaven : And we have been taught by the Highest Example our Duty, and our Interest. Upon all which Accounts certainly we have the greatest Reason to pay our hearty Acknowledgments to Almighty G O D, and to *come before his Presence with Thanksgiving*. For by His Providence Princes Reign : He laid the first Foundation of all their Accomplishments, and all their Designs. He orders the Scene of Affairs so as that all the Success and Happiness that follows is owing originally to his infinite Wisdom, and Goodness. If therefore, He have been good to us after so extraordinary a manner ; and disposed Things so in this critical Juncture that we must all Acknowledge, we want neither Conduct and Courage in our *Armies* Abroad, nor Wisdom and Temper in our *Counsels* at Home, let us be sensible of so great a Blessing

Blessing as the Accession of a QUEEN to the Throne, who so gloriously maintains the Cause delivered down to Her; so wisely Governs at Home, and so Successfully Wars Abroad.

And it will increase our Sense of the Mercy of GOD towards us in Her Accession to the Crown, to consider that happy Constitution, and frame of Government, which is by this means preserved, and confirmed to us. She is the first upon the Throne, since the Settlement of the *Succession* in the Protestant Line: And She hath demonstrated already to the whole World her hatred of *Tyranny* and *Slavery*, and her tender Regard to *Liberty*. So that we may say, we owe to her Reign the Confirmation, and Establishment of our happy Estate. Happy indeed, if we look Abroad, and compare it with the miserable Estate of such as are under no Law but *Arbitrary Will*, and know not what it is truly to possess any Thing; or so much as to enjoy the Worship and Religion they approve. We can have no proper Notion, at this distance, of what hath been suffered throughout *Europe*, from the ungovernable *Excess* of
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of *Power*, and the burning *Zeal* of *Popery*. When we felt in our selves but the Approaches towards what is known in other Lands, there was hardly a Man to be found that did not disdain the unnatural Principles of a servile Obedience: Nay, many of those who afterwards returned in their Hearts to *Egypt*, permitted Nature to have so much force upon them, as that they invited Relief, and Assistance, and themselves laid the Scene of our Deliverance. And could we see what others at this Moment feel, under the Influences of *Ungoverned Power*, and *Bigotry*, we could not but retain a just value for our own Happiness; and a just Sense of the Favour of G O D, in granting us a Q U E E N as truly concerned for the *Rights*, and *Liberties*, and *Religion* of her Subjects, as her Subjects themselves could wish. It is an invaluable Blessing, and above all the Grandeur, and Magnificence of *Arbitrary Power*, that we can dare to say, we enjoy any Thing, and have a Title to it; that we can demand it of any that lay violent Hands upon it, and can call for legal Redress of the Injuries of the greatest Persons amongst us. And it is an incomparable Happiness, that we enjoy the *Religion*
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we approve ; that we can meet undisturbed for the Worship of G O D, and freely exercise our common Devotions. And what is to be seen answerable to this, in any Country, where there is not the Liberty of Men's *Persons*, and *Estates*, and *Religion* ? Nothing but a Mock-outside of Greatness (falsly so called) in the *Prince*, loved only by Slaves, but hated, and abhorred, and perhaps marked out to Destruction, if there remain in any a Sense of *Freedom*, and of the Dignity of Humane Nature ? What can compensate the Loss of so singular an Happiness as we enjoy, and how great should our Sense of it be ? The peculiar Glory of the *Crown* of these *Realms* is this, that it is enriched with all those Powers which are necessary for the defence of the Subject, and the true greatness of the *Prince* ; and that it wants only those that tend to the Destruction of Liberty, and the Unhappiness of those that wear it. As therefore it must be the Interest of the *Crown* it self, not to affect *New*, and *Illegal Powers*, so it is manifestly the Interest of every Subject, that the *Crown* should never be rob'd of the *Powers* it now possesseth. For whenever this comes to pass, it may be found

found as great an Injury to the just Liberties of the *Subjects* of this *Kingdom*, as *Arbitrariness* in the *Crown* it self. For then the happy Balance is broken, that keeps all Things in an even State : And such an Alteration in so nice a Constitution must needs give a terrible Shock to the *Publick Happiness*. And I may add, that Experience hath shewn, that nothing is so agreeable to the welfare of these Kingdoms, as the antient Constitution preserved unviolated ; and that whoever have endeavoured to break in upon it, either by infringing the Liberties of the *Subject*, or by too great Encroachments upon the legal Province of the *Prince*, have equally failed of Success ; have never been able to Establish their own private *Scheme*, but fallen a Sacrifice to their own Imprudence. This being, therefore, our peculiar Happiness ; and an Happiness which this Day confirmed to us ; it becomes us this Day to fill our Minds with a Sense of it, and to express our Thankfulness for it. But last of all,

IV. If we be truly thankful to Almighty G O D for so Excellent a Governor as this Day ascended the Throne ; it is most agreeable

able to this Solemnity, to kindle in our Breasts a strong Resolution, and a zealous Desire of making Her a Great, and Glorious QUEEN. Not by Prostituting our *Rights*, and *Liberties* to her Will; (an Offer which She hath Greatness enough to Disdain) for that would be to give Her only the external Appearance of Grandeur; but by contributing all we can to her true Happiness, and Satisfaction. To make our Selves an *Happy People* by the Universal Practice of all that is Virtuous and Praise-worthy; this is truly to make our QUEEN Happy. For how can it be that the Ruler of a Religious People should not be Happy? And such a Ruler as knows the value and importance of Virtue, and Religion? But if You would be more Particular, She her self hath directed You to a Method, in which You cannot fail of making Her an Happy and Glorious QUEEN. Pursue the Paths of Peace, and Union; Love, and Concord; avoid all Quarrels, and mutual Dissensions; Entertain Candour, and good Nature, and a true Christian Moderation: And as this will make You an *Happy People*, so You have Her own Royal Word for it, *This will make*
Her

Her on Happy QUEEN. Indeed She seems to have ascended the Throne in Order to Compose the unhappy Heats, and Violences amongst us: And if Her Hand do not heal our miserable Breaches, I fear no other may have the like Advantages; or any possibility of attempting it without raising Jealousies, and Passions, and meeting with insuperable Difficulties. She hath not been wanting, on all Occasions, to make this the Subject of her Publick Conversations with her Subjects: And, as if nothing delighted Her more than the thought of Planting, and Establishing Peace amongst Her People, She constantly dwells upon it, and is ever inculcating it. *Peace* was the Subject of that last most affectionate Speech, which was the Legacy, as it were, of Her Predecessor to these distracted Kingdoms: And She hath, with great Zeal and Earnestness, persued the same Divine Subject. And can it become those who pretend any Love to Her Majesty, to neglect all her passionate Entreaties, and instead of *Peace*, to Sow the Seeds of *Discord* in the Land? Far be it from any such! If they Love not the Thing it self, yet let the very Respect for that great Name which gives

gives Credit to it, engage them to express some Regard to it; lest while they profess a Veneration for their Q U E E N, they should seem to Renounce it all in their Actions, and to put the highest Affront upon Her.

To Conclude all, Let us value our Happiness in such a Q U E E N, and pay the profoundest Respect to so much Merit; Let us assist Her with all Readiness against the Common Adversary of Her Throne, and our own Peace; Let us make her the Q U E E N of a Religious, and United People; and let us pray to G O D, long to preserve Her a Publick Blessing to these Kingdoms, and the Guardian of the Liberties of all *Europe*, and finally to recompense the Cares and Labours of her earthly Crown, with a *Crown* of eternal Glory in the World to come.

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